Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1396 May 14, 2004

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1396 with a release date of
Friday, May 14, 2004 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hamvention 2004 is opening and B-P-L is
still in the
news. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline report number
1396
coming your way right now.

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HAMVENTION COVERAGE

The 2004 Dayton Hamvention is about to open its doors. One of this
year's
Hamvention themes is going back to the future. Our producer Bill
Pasternak,
WA6ITF, flew in a few days early to find out what it really means for
those who
will be attending the show.

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Audio report only: Hear it at www.arnewsline.org
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Bill, Mark Abramowicz NT3V and yours truly will all be at Hamvention
to bring
you all the highlights on next week's Amateur Radio Newsline
report. (ARNewsline(tm))

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THE BPL FIGHT: B-P-L EXPECTED TO DRAW ATTENTION AT DAYTON

While the latest in ham gear is certain to be grab the interest of
most of those
attending this year's Dayton Hamvention, the topic of Broadband Over
Power
Lines internet access is likely to be on the lips of many. Amateur
Radio
Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V has more...

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While not much has happened in the past week on the B-P-L issue, look for lots of discussion on the Dayton Hamvention floor. You can expect to see American Radio Relay League President Jim Haynie W-5-J-B-P in the middle of it.

We told you here on Amateur Radio Newsline two weeks ago of Haynie's call to arms and his direct appeal to President Bush to abandon support for B-P-L technology.

Haynie is convinced Bush has been misled by his advisors. He and A-R-R-L's Washington corps have asked for a meeting with the president. There's nothing new to report on that front.

But Haynie says it's important for the ham community to continue to make its voice heard by writing to the White House, your congressman and your senator about B-P-L. Even though the Federal Communications Commission turned down the A-R-R-L's request to extend the May 3 deadline for comments on B-P-L, Haynie says there are still ways to be heard.

The A-R-R-L's website (www.arrl.org) has helpful tips on writing that letter or e-mail or picking up the phone and calling your representative in Washington.

Meanwhile, the FCC is now studying the National Telecommunications and Information Agency report on B-P-L. And while the glowing press release put out by N-T-I-A touted the possibilities of B-P-L, the technical data in the report presents another picture.

And that picture is anything but fuzzy. N-T-I-A cites major interference concerns and suggests the methods used to measure B-P-L interference are inadequate.

It also cites worries B-P-L signals could affect aircraft operations and suggests more stringent measurement standards and interference mitigation

techniques
need to be explored.

Could that B-P-L fast-track train be slowing? No one is willing to speculate on
that, especially since President Bush and F-C-C Chairman Michael Powell appear
to be on the same page in their push for deployment of B-P-L.

Could the F-C-C be convinced to wait for the next N-T-I-A report and table the
issue for a few months? No one knows how to read the tea leaves in Washington.

Tune in weekly to Amateur Radio Newsline and we'll keep you on top of the
issue with the very latest news and views of those close to the B-P-L issue.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.
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And look for Mark's report on the B-P-L buzz and other topics from the
Hamvention floor during our special program next week produced in Dayton.
(ARNewsline(tm))

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Ham radio did all it could to help save the life of a stricken runner at a recent foot race in
Indianapolis. Jack Parker, W-8-I-S-H, has the details:

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Audio report only: Hear it at www.arnewsline.org
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Thanks Jack. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

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RADIO RULES: FCC MKES "MINOR AMMENDMENTS" TO PART 97

The FCC says that it has minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules. A bulletin from the ARRL highlights some of them including the most significant one. It involved revising the wording of Section 97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System electronic licensee database. The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station." Under the revised Section 97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the U-L-S consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station."

The FCC made these and several other regulatory changes on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions. The decision appeared May 5 in the Federal Register. The changes become effective June 1st. (ARRL)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WB3ERZ repeater serving South Central Pennsylvania.

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ENFORCEMENT: CONVICTED MURDERER LOOSES HAM TICKET

A ham serving a prison sentence for the murder of his wife has had

his Amateur
license revoked. Roger Thomas Scaggs, the now ex-W5EBC, had his ticket
pulled after the FCC determined that he no longer holds the requisite
requirements to remain a Commission licensee.

On March 6, 1996 Scaggs was convicted of murder in the death of Penny
Scaggs, his wife of thirty-five years. The court record in that case showed that
Scaggs beat his wife to death with a galvanized lead pipe and then stabbed her
several times. He was sentenced to a prison term of thirty-two years and fined
ten thousand dollars.

The Commission says that its character policies provide that any felony
conviction is a matter predictive of licensee behavior and is directly relevant to
the functioning of the Commission's regulatory mission. It says that Scaggs
conviction mandates the conclusion that he does not possess the requisite
qualifications to be or remain a Commission licensee and that his license should
be revoked. (FCC)

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ENFORCMENT: NO FISHING COMS HERE

The owners of four trucking companies, two seafood companies and one fishing
boat have all been cited by the FCC for operating without a license on amateur
frequencies. According to the C-Q magazine website, three of the trucking
companies are in North and South Carolina and the fourth is in Idaho. They
were allegedly operating on 10 meters. The fishing boats are in the Pacific
Northwest, purportedly using the 2 meter band. (CQ)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC AGAIN WRITES TO K1MAN

The FCC has again written to Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, and the commissions

note
has both good and bad news for the Belgrade Lakes, Maine radio
amateur. On
the positive side, the April 14th letter informs K1MAN that a review
of his
transmissions indicates that he is complying with the Amateur Service
regulations
regarding broadcasting and bulletins and station control.

The negative? The FCC alleges that K1MAN is in violation of rules
regarding use
of his Amateur station for pecuniary interest and those regarding
deliberate
interference to ongoing communications.

Also, the letter again told Baxter that his "felony affidavit
complaints" will not be
accepted by the regulatory agency. He was also reminded that all
frequencies in
the Amateur Radio Service are shared. No frequency is assigned for
the
exclusive use of any station, and that Baxter's station has no
greater rights to a
frequency at any particular time than does any other Amateur station.
 (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: CONSERVATIVE GROUP CALLS ON CONGRESS TO REPRIMAND
FCC

A faith based group is chiding the FCC for not acting more decisively
in getting
dirty words off the public airwaves. Amateur Radio Newsline's
Jim Davis, W-2-J-
K-D, has more:

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AUDIO

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Focus on the Family was founded by Dr. James Dobson, whose
commentaries
are heard on radio stations world-wide. (Published reports)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC CHAIRMAN DOES NOT SUPPORT REVOKING BROADCAST LICENSES

F-C-C chairman Michael Powell says he doesn't support legislation that would pull a broadcast station license after a third indecency violation. He is not opposed to high fines to get the attention of broadcasters who step across the indecency line.

Speaking at the recent National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas, Powell suggested that he would support extending indecency regulations beyond over-the-air broadcasting to other media, such as cable and satellite broadcasts, but only if the FCC is given approval by Congress.

Powell labels as a "red herring" a proposal by Viacom president Mel Karmazin for more specific decency guidelines. Viacom owns C-B-S. That's the network which aired the controversial Super Bowl half-time show with rock star Janet Jackson. (Published reports)

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RESCUE RADIO: EMERGENCY TRAINING IN KANSAS

A day-long program on Amateur Radio emergency communications will take place Saturday, July 24, 9 AM in Kansas. This, at The Salvation Army, 420 E Santa Fe, Olathe which is 15 miles southwest of Kansas City.

According to the ARRL Letter, the day begins with "New Ham Orientation," sponsored by Johnson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. This session will provide an overview of ARES and explain how amateurs can get involved. Following a lunch break the Kansas Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network will sponsor an ARRL Emergency Communications seminar.

Seats are limited. For additional information contact June Jeffers, KB0WEQ, by e-mail to kssatern@att.net or call area code 913-856-8674 during normal business hours, Central time. (ARRL)

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HAM RADIO CONFERENCES: CSVHFS IN CANADA IN JULY

More information is now available on the upcoming Central States V-H-F Conference that has been mailed out and also posted to the conference website. Included are the latest highlights of conference plans, border crossing tips and Canadian currency tips. Also posted is the 2004 President's Message along with last years Noise Figure Measurement Test results and the Antenna Test Range results.

The conference is scheduled for July 22nd to the 25th at the Delta Meadowvale Resort & Conference Center in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. All the latest is in cyberspace at www.csvhfs.org and the Ontario VHF Association's page at www.ovhfa.com. We hope that you have a great time. (Peter Shilton VE3AX)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

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RADIO LAW: SAN DIEGO TV SHOP OWNER CONVICTED

Here's the kind of a story you probably have not heard of in years. How about a T-V repair shop owner convicted of duping his customers. Jim Meachen, Zed-L-2-B-H-F, has the rest of the story:

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AUDIO
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The store owner pleaded guilty to ten criminal counts, including grand theft, forgery, fraud and false advertising. (listeners reports)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DTV AT A SNAILS PACE

The General Accounting Office has issued a report saying that more than 80 percent of Americans are either unaware or only "somewhat aware" of the transition to digital television signals. They are also unaware that Congress plans to sell the analog spectrum that will become available when TV stations convert from analog to digital.

Lawmakers are counting on the money to help balance the budget. However, the digital transition may be years away unless more consumers start buying digital TVs to receive the new signals. Current sales of those expensive digital sets appear to be fairly flat at best. (Science OnLine)

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WORLDBEAT - ALBANIA: NEWS FROM ALBANIA

Turning to news from around the world, many noticed the signals from OH2BH and OH2PM bouncing in from Albania not long ago. In fact, the pair made some

6000 QSOs while visiting that nation. They were also there to remind the world
of Amateur Radio about it's shared responsibility to help those in need. You are
welcome to join this effort by making your old gear active from Albania. For U.S.
tax payers, your donations can be processed by the Northern California DX
Foundation. Contact W6OSP by e-mail to w6osp@aol.com for details. (N4GN)

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WORLDBEAT - CANADA: SOME RAC APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Radio Amateurs of Canada's Board of Directors has approved Eric Ferguson, V-E-
3-C-R, as the organizations new Treasurer. This, for the term ending Dec 31st,
2005. Feguson comes to Radio Amateurs of Canada with extensive banking
experience at the Executive level at a major Canadian bank.

The Board of Directors has approved Dave Goodwin, V-Oh-1-A-U, as the Director
for Radio Amateurs of Canada's Atlantic Region. Goodwin will complete the term
of David Nimmo, VE1NN, who resigned in early March. (RAC)

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WORLDBEAT - UK: NEW 6 METER BEACON ON THE AIR

And members of the United Kingdom's Blacksheep Contest Group have activated
a new 6 meter propagation beacon located near the city of Hertfordshire, in grid
square IO91. This, as a replacement for the GB3NHQ beacon which closed down
some years ago.

The new GB3BAA beacon became operational on 50.016 MHz at 15:10 UTC on
April 20th, and ground-wave reception reports from Normandy and northern
England have already been received. Further reports would be most welcome,
and should be sent to Mr. I. Phillips, G0RDI, by e-mail to

gb3baa@77hz.com (RSGB)

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DX

In DX, 3-B-9-F-R has been heard operating from Rodrigues Island on 10 meter
FM. He was heard on the worldwide calling frequency of 29.600 MHz between
1200 and 1400 U-T-C, working Europe. (GB2RS)

Also heard on is A-P-2-J-Z-B in Pakistan. He was monitored on 12 and 17 meters
SSB. Watch 24.955 MHz after 0930 U-T-C and also around 18.110 MHz after
1445 UTC. QSL direct to the operators call directory address. (GB2RS)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: WHO INVENTED THE SCANNER RADIO - REDUX

And finally this week, an update on our recent story of who really invented the
first scanner radio. We previously reported that a group of broadcast engineers
working at Cape Canaveral during the early days of the space race developed the
first scanner radio. This, so that the late NBC newsman Roy Neal, K-6-D-U-E,
could know when a launch was going to take place.

Well, that is quite true but Harvey Cronen, a S-W-L who is one of our listeners in
New Jersey has some further information. He says that musician and inventor
Raymond Scott is the person who holds a patent on at least one form of
automatic scanning radio.

Harvey sent us a web link to a site that chronicles the life of Scott. While he is
best known as the orchestra leader on the early NBC television show "Your Hit
Parade" and as the husband of the late songstress Dorothy Collins, there was

another side to Raymond Scott that few in the public knew about. It is all on the
website and it is there where it says that Scott actually patented a broadcast
band radio receiver which tunes in on stations around the country and changes
frequency by itself at any given interval. This, says the website, permitted Scott
to catch most of the nations disc-jockey shows in a brief span and find out what
tunes are being played.

There is lots of truly fascinating information at this very informative website
about Raymond Scott, his life, his inventions that impacted on the worlds of
recording and communications as well as his music. It is well worth visiting at
www.raymondscott.com. (H. Cronen)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the
RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm).
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Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at
www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio
Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2004 Amateur Radio Newsline
Young Ham of the Year Award is now on. This program is open to any FCC
licensed young radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the contiguous 48
states and who has made a significant contribution to the community, the nation
or ham radio though the United States Amateur Radio Service.

More information and a downloadable on-line nominating form is at our website.
That's in cyberspace at www.arnewsline.org. The cutoff for nominations this

year is midnight on Tuesday, June 31st.

Next week, a full wrap-up on Hamvention 2004 which is opening as this newscast goes to air. Our Editor Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in Dayton this week, sor for
now I am Don Wilbanks, AE5DW editing, anchoring saying 73 and we thank you for
listening."

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